What is the purpose of Preschool Child Find?

The purpose of Preschool Child Find is to locate and evaluate children who are suspected of having a disability. If it is determined that the disability interferes with learning, special education and/or related services may be recommended. Related services may include (but are not limited to) Speech/Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Physical Therapy.

Who may refer children?
Children may be referred by any of the following:
- Parents/legal guardians
- Other family members
- Physicians
- School personnel
- Child care providers
- Community agencies
- Infants & Toddlers Program

When should a child be referred to Preschool Child Find?

- When birth complications or a medical disorder interferes with development and/or learning
- When the child seems to have difficulty understanding simple directions
- When the child seems to have difficulty hearing or seeing
- When you or others outside the family don’t understand the child’s speech
- When the child appears to be learning more slowly than other children his/her age
- When the child appears to have social or emotional difficulties that affect his/her ability to learn

Concerns need not be limited to those listed above. Any condition which may affect a child’s ability to learn can be a basis for referral.

What happens at Preschool Child Find?

Step 1
A teacher and/or a speech/language pathologist (SLP) will talk with you to gather information about your child’s developmental history. Your child will interact with our staff in a play format. The discussion and consultation will lead to a list of resources, home strategies, and/or step 2.

Step 2
If the teacher and/or SLP suspect that your child has a disability which may negatively affect his/her learning, they will schedule an Individualized Education Program (IEP) team meeting to review information from step 1 and determine if testing is needed.

Step 3
Your child will be tested, after which another IEP meeting will be scheduled to review the results and determine if your child has a disability and is eligible for special education and/or related services.

Step 4
If your child is determined to be eligible for services at step 3, an IEP meeting will be held to develop an IEP. The IEP is based upon your child’s educational needs. All services are provided in the least restrictive environment (LRE) and will be discussed and determined at the meeting.
Overview of Program

**STEP 1:**
**Request/Consultation**
Information is collected and is shared with parent, and when appropriate, school personnel.

**STEP 2:**
**IEP Team Meeting is Scheduled**
(Parents provide written consent if assessment is considered necessary) An IEP meeting is held to obtain parent consent for assessment.

**STEP 3:**
**2nd IEP Meeting**
Assessment is conducted. An IEP meeting is then held to review results and determine eligibility for services.

**STEP 4:**
**Individualized Education Program**
An IEP is developed, service delivery will be discussed and placement location will be determined.

Child Find Resources:

**Infants & Toddlers Program:**
410-222-6911
Birth to 2 yrs. 9 months

**Preschool Child Find Program:**
410-766-6662
2 yrs. 10 mos. – 5th birthday
(Preschoolers NOT in kindergarten)

**School Age Program:**
Contact the Administrator at your child’s school of attendance
5th birthday to 21st birthday

**Private/Religious Students:**
410-222-5479
5th birthday to 21st birthday

If you have a child or know of a child between the ages of 2 years-10 months and 5 years old who seems to have difficulty learning, help is available.

The information in this brochure will tell you how and where to get help.